



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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EARTH DAY IS CELEBRATED IN ROLLA

“USDA Rural Development is committed to helping rural communities.”

Rolla, April 25, 2005. . . In recognition of the 35th Anniversary of Earth Day, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns announced \$143.4 million in investments to 29 states by the Bush Administration for rural water and waste disposal loans and grants to assist 59 rural communities with environmentally sound waste disposal and safe drinking water systems. The investment funding assists rural communities to address health and environmental issues and promote business development.



During a ceremony today celebrating Earth Day, Shane Goettle, chief of staff for the Office of the Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development, joined USDA Rural Development State Director, for North Dakota, Clare Carlson, in a check presentation for \$3,849,000 to the city of Rolla. Rolla is located in Rolette County and in the heart of the CONAC REAP Zone.



“Today we congratulate the community for making the improvements to the city’s sewer system which will ensure safe and dependable sanitary sewer services to the residents of Rolla,” said Goettle. “On this Earth Day 2005, we take the opportunity to highlight what USDA’s Rural Development and the Bush Administration are doing for our environment through their community water and wastewater infrastructure programs.”

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
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“The investments made here today by Rural Development will help protect the environment and improve the quality of life for citizens of Rolla and the surrounding area,” said Carlson.



The funding package of \$3,849,000 represents a Rural Development utilities grant for \$1,050,000 and a loan for \$2,799,000 to construct a new wastewater treatment facility to include pre-treatment by mechanical aeration and a final treatment by wastewater treatment ponds. A new four-cell lagoon will be constructed south of the current location. The sewer system renovation will rehabilitate the existing clay tile pipe adding structural strength and reducing infiltration into the sewer system. A separate ground water collection will be constructed in this area utilizing perforated pipe and a lift station.

This wastewater project is a positive step for Rolla in two ways: 1) Rolla has taken the initiative to protect the ground water contamination brought on by sewage seeping from old collection pipes, and 2) the project will also improve the economic infrastructure and expand job opportunities for all who live in the area.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. Its mission is to deliver programs that will support increased economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. It administers financial and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure. ***Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.***

In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$78.5 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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